

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO IRELAND – ADD.1

DENMARK

- How does Ireland address the concerns that have been raised regarding prison conditions in Ireland including overcrowding and insufficient personal hygiene conditions?
- Does Ireland intend to permit therapeutic abortion in a situation where a woman is pregnant as a result of rape, where her physical and mental health and wellbeing are at risk, or where the foetus has a severe abnormality incompatible with life outside the womb?

FINLAND

1) Human Rights of Women

- The European Court of Human Rights ruled in December 2010 that the Irish State should clarify the circumstances under which an abortion may be lawful. What measures does the Government intend to take, in accordance with the Irish Supreme Court ruling of 1992 and the ECHR judgment of 2010, to clarify the circumstances under which an abortion may be lawful, and to effectively fulfill women's right to access life-saving abortions?

2) Ratification of Human Rights Conventions

- Ireland is yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. What steps are taken, or what steps does the Government intend to take, to ratify the above mentioned agreements?

NETHERLANDS

- How does the Irish government ensure and assess that economic measures do not disproportionately impact on the most vulnerable and excluded in the Irish Society or have a general retrogressive effect?
- The Netherlands would like to ask the Irish Government how the Constitutional Convention can address the issue of recognition of all modern, pluralist and inclusive family relationships.
- Noting a delay in timing of a referendum incorporating the rights of the child in the institution, is the Irish Government considering alternative (legislative) measures that will enhance the position of children in the short term (e.g. extending the remit of the Ombudsman to children in prisons and asylum seeking children)?

- Noting the commitment in the Program for Government to address omissions relating to children in de Civil Partnership Act, how does the Irish government intend to address this?
- The Netherlands would like to commend the Irish government on its commitment to implement the A,B and C vs. Ireland case expeditiously. Could the Irish government elaborate on the terms, references and time frame of the expert group proposed by the Government, which is to be tasked with making recommendations on how to address the judgment, and how the rights of women's will be upheld pending the expert group's examination?
- How does the Irish government intend to secure a better diversity of school type in the educational system throughout the country to reflect the diversity of religious and non-religious convictions represented in the country?
- The Netherlands commends the Irish government on its commitment to draft a Gender Recognition Bill. When will this bill be introduced?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Ireland refuses granting the asylum-seekers the right to work. At the same time, the recognition rate of asylum-seekers remained very low and there was yet no legal framework granting the right to family reunion. What immigration policy adaptations is the Government prepared to make, granting its compliancy with European human rights standards?
- Irish prisons suffer in particular from frequent overcrowding and poor hygienic conditions (in particular the humiliating remaining practice of „slopping-out“ of human waste) and in certain aspects fail to comply with international standards . What steps will the Government take to tackle this issue?
- According to reports, the specific minority group of Travellers still faces discrimination on behalf of the authorities and marginalization by the society (in specific, e.g. continuous intimidation in prison facilities). Given their cultural specifics and provided that they construe a particularly vulnerable part of the society, does the Government consider finally granting the Travellers the status of an ethnic minority?